WYOMING

VOL. 26 NO. 5 MAY 1989

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Feb '89	Mar '89
Labor Force	226,802	225,539
Employment	208,751	209,441
Unemployment	18,051	16,098
Rate (Raw)	8.0	7.1
Rate (S.A.)	6.4	5.9
Mining Hourly Wage	$15.05	$13.71
Avg. Weekly Hours:		
Mining	42.6	54.7
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.1	5.0
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.18	$13.10
Avg. Weekly Hours:		
Mining	41.9	42.0
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	121.6	122.3
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.8	+5.0

S.A. Seasonally Adjusted

IN THIS ISSUE:

— Wyoming's Per Capita Personal Income
— Wyoming Counties-A Ten Year Look

NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES AT 14 YEAR LOW

In March both the number of the unemployed and the civilian worker unemployment rate edged downward after seasonal adjustment, to 6.1 million and 5.0 percent, respectively. Over the past year, the unemployment rate has fallen six-tenths of a percentage point, and the number of unemployed has declined by 700,000.

National job growth continued in March as civilian employment increased annually by 3.0 million workers to a level of 116 million, up 2.6 percent.

SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES CONTINUE TO FUEL THE U.S. ECONOMY

In March most of the annual worker gain occurred in services (900,000), trade (400,000), government (317,000), and other so called service-producing industries. All other major industries were up except mining, down 10,000 workers over the year in a continuing slump.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)

WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section
Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS TO 7.1 PERCENT IN MARCH

Statewide unemployment dropped almost a full percentage point in March, to 7.1 percent, 16,100 unemployed as compared to 8.0 percent in both January and February and 7.4 percent a year ago. Seasonally adjusted Wyoming unemployment, at 5.9 percent in March, continued well above the national average of 5.0 percent but was down from the February statewide rate of 6.4 percent. U.S. unemployment hit a 14 year low in March.

In February, the latest data available for all the states, Wyoming ranked sixth highest in seasonally unadjusted unemployment, at 8.0 percent. Louisiana ranked first with 11.7 percent and New Hampshire was at the bottom at 2.8 percent. Wyoming was the highest in the Rocky Mountain region.

WYOMING LABOR FORCE CONTINUES BELOW YEAR AGO LEVEL

The March, Wyoming civilian labor force stood at 225,500, down 1.7 percent from the year ago total of 229,400. Total employment, workers, at over 209,400 for March was about the same as in February and was down 1.4 percent from the 212,400 registered a year ago.

Through March of 1989, the number of workers in the state has averaged about one percent less than 1988, the same trend in 1988 as compared to 1987.

TRADE AND SERVICES REGISTERED SUBSTANTIAL ANNUAL GROWTH

On the bright side of the Wyoming economy, trade and services had notable annual employment gains of 1,700 and 1,100 workers. Smaller annual gains were noted in the goods-producing industries of construction, manufacturing and mining. This follows the national trend of employment growth being concentrated in the lower paying service-producing industries.

LABOR FORCE DECLINES NOTED IN MOST AREAS OF STATE

In March most (16) of the 23 counties in the state indicated annual labor force declines as did the state as a whole. Teton and Albany counties continued with the lowest unemployment at 2.9 and 4.0 percent. Lincoln County recorded the only double digit unemployment in March at 10.5 percent.

Laramie County had the largest labor force in the state, at 34,800 in March. Natrona County came in second at 30,400. Compare this to March, 1981 when the tables were turned and the Casper area labor force at 40,200 overshadowed the Cheyenne area which registered 32,100.

THE JACKSON AREA, A POCKET OF PROSPERITY

The March unemployment rate, at 2.9 percent, in Teton County was an all-time record low for the month. In addition, the 3.5 percent annual average rate for last year, 1988, was a record low for any year in the Jackson area. Employment growth since 1982, the peak of the energy boom in Wyoming, has been an astounding 50 percent in Teton County. This compares to a statewide worker loss of 10 percent and a Casper area worker loss of about 30 percent.

On the downside, however, Teton County ranks 22nd among the counties with an average weekly wage (3rd Quarter 1988) of $251. This compares with $354 for a statewide average and $484 for Campbell County.

Unemployment Rates by State, February 1989

WYOMING'S PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In April, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis released per capita personal income data for Wyoming for 1988. Annual per capita income for Wyoming in 1988 was $13,718. This was a 7.6 percent increase over 1987. However, Wyoming's figure was $2,726 short of the national average of $16,444. In 1988, the increase in per capita income reverses a seven year trend of declining values relative to the national average.

The 1988 per capita income of $13,718 was 83 percent of the national average. Last year, Wyoming's per capita income of $12,719 represented 82 percent of the national average. In 1980 the state's per capita income was 114 percent of the national average and since that time, except for 1988, demonstrated a decline relative to the nation.

When compared to other states, Wyoming ranked 36th in 1988. Connecticut had the highest per capita income with $22,761, while Mississippi ranked 51st with $10,992. During the early 1980's Wyoming consistently ranked in the top ten in the nation.

In 1988, per capita personal income in the Rocky Mountain region (includes Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Utah) was $14,282 - 13 percent below the national average. Per capita personal income was below the national average in each Rocky Mountain state except Colorado.

Per capita income is computed by dividing the total personal income by the resident population of an area as of July 1. This measure of income serves as an indicator of the quality of consumer markets and the economic well-being of the residents of an area. This measure can vary and should be used with caution.

SWEETWATER, WYOMING
1976-1986

Sweetwater County's 1986 population of 47,000 ranked third in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Sweetwater had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $12,966. This PCPI ranked eighth in the state, and was 102 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 89 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Sweetwater's PCPI of $8,233 ranked fourth in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past ten years was 4.6 percent, less than the state average (6.3 percent) and less than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Sweetwater had a total personal income (TPI) of $609,592*. This TPI ranked third in the state and accounted for 9.4 percent of the state total. In 1976, Sweetwater's TPI of $266,818* ranked third in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past ten years was 8.6 percent, less than the state average (9.0 percent) and less than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Sweetwater increased from $260,300* in 1976 to $550,357* in 1986, an average annual growth rate of 7.8 percent. The largest industries in 1986 were mining, which accounted for 36.9 percent of earnings; transportation and public utilities, 13.5 percent; and state and local government, 12.1 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were mining, with 36.1 percent of earnings; construction, 24.2 percent; and transportation and public utilities, 9.2 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least five percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was construction (11.2 percent of earnings in 1986), which declined at an average annual rate of 0.2 percent; the fastest was state and local government, which increased at an average annual rate of 13.4 percent.

TETON, WYOMING
1976-1986

Teton County's 1986 population of 10,800 ranked 15th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Teton had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $18,771. This PCPI ranked first in the state, and was 147 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 128 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Teton's PCPI of $9,142 ranked first in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past ten years was 7.5 percent, more than the state average (6.3 percent) and less than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Teton had a total personal income (TPI) of $202,670*. This TPI ranked 12th in the state and accounted for 3.1 percent of the state total. In 1976, Teton's TPI of $69,833* ranked tenth in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past ten years was 11.2 percent, more than the state average (9.0 percent) and more than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Teton increased from $52,829* in 1976 to $144,184* in 1986, an average annual growth rate of 10.6 percent. The largest industries in 1986 were services, which accounted for 35.8 percent of earnings; retail trade, 16.6 percent and, construction, 13.7 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were services, with 31.3 percent of earnings; retail trade, 20.0 percent; and construction, 15.1 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least five percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was Federal civilian employment (5.5 percent of earnings in 1986), which increased at an average annual rate of 6.8 percent; the fastest was state and local government, (10.1 percent of earnings in 1986), which increased at an average annual rate of 13.0 percent.

*All income estimates with the exception of PCPI are in thousands of dollars.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1982-1984 = 100)
ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
March 1989	122.3	123.3	121.5	124.7	119.3	111.9	146.1
Annual % Change	5.0	6.3	3.8	4.8	4.4	5.1	7.2

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	MAR 1989[1]	FEB 1989[1]	MAR 1988[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	225,539	226,802	229,387	- 0.6%	- 1.7%
Unemployment	16,098	18,051	16,939	-10.8%	- 5.0%
Employed Labor Force	209,441	208,751	212,448	0.3%	- 1.4%
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	165,600	164,800	164,876	0.5%	0.4%
b. Agriculture[3]	10,386	10,687	10,782	- 2.8%	- 3.7%
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	7.1% 5.9%*	8.0% 6.4%*	7.4% 6.1%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	5.2% 5.0%*	5.6% 5.1%*	6.2% 5.7%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	3.4%	3.7%	3.7%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 749.94	$ 641.13	$ 616.25	17.0%	21.7%
Average Weekly Hours	54.7	42.6	42.5	28.4%	28.7%
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.71	$ 15.05	$ 14.50	- 8.9%	- 5.4%
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	26,799	28,651	30,864	- 6.5%	-13.2%
a. Initial	2,804	3,176	3,030	-11.7%	- 7.5%
Weeks Compensated	23,260	22,309	27,405	4.3%	-15.1%
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 3,668,019	$ 3,542,951	$ 4,246,824	3.5%	-13.6%
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 157.07	$ 157.95	$ 154.62	- 0.6%	1.6%
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Openings Received	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Placements	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 550.20	$ 552.24	$ 527.52	- 0.4%	4.3%
Average Weekly Hours	42.0	41.9	41.9	0.2%	0.2%
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.10	$ 13.18	$ 12.59	- 0.6%	4.1%
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84 = 100	122.3	121.6	116.5	0.6%	5.0%
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84 = 100	111.5	110.8	104.9	0.6%	6.3%
Food and Beverage 1982-84 = 100	123.3	122.7	116.0	0.5%	6.3%

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	MAR 1989	FEB 1988	MAR 1988	%CHANGE FEB-MAR	%CHANGE MAR-MAR	MAR 1989	FEB 1989	MAR 1988	MAR 1989	FEB 1989	MAR 1988
Statewide	225,539	226,802	229,387	- 0.6	- 1.7	16,098	18,051	16,939	7.1	8.0	7.4
Statewide Seasonally adjusted									5.9	6.4	6.1
Albany	14,323	14,419	15,396	- 0.7	- 7.0	577	698	661	4.0	4.8	4.3
Big Horn	5,050	5,063	4,871	- 0.3	3.7	422	553	499	8.4	10.9	10.2
Campbell	14,925	14,791	15,374	0.9	- 2.9	1,368	1,412	1,152	9.2	9.5	7.5
Carbon	7,010	7,071	7,561	- 0.9	- 7.3	586	711	695	8.4	10.1	9.2
Converse	5,444	5,484	5,571	- 0.7	- 2.3	462	570	490	8.5	10.4	8.8
Crook	2,715	2,760	2,855	- 1.6	- 4.9	233	241	259	8.6	8.7	9.1
Fremont	16,165	16,327	15,847	- 1.6	2.0	1,548	1,854	1,448	9.6	11.4	9.1
Goshen	5,733	5,753	6,062	- 1.0	- 5.4	346	409	532	6.0	7.1	8.8
Hot Springs	2,723	2,723	2,895	- 0.3	- 5.9	116	142	168	4.3	5.2	5.8
Johnson	3,281	3,424	3,296	0.0	- 0.5	217	276	246	6.6	8.1	7.5
Laramie	34,849	35,352	35,586	- 4.2	- 2.1	2,121	2,250	2,044	6.1	6.4	5.7
Lincoln	5,330	5,333	5,754	- 1.4	- 7.4	561	603	609	10.5	11.3	10.6
Natrona	30,360	30,646	30,518	- 0.1	- 0.5	2,220	2,454	2,355	7.3	8.0	7.7
Niobrara	1,212	1,230	1,471	- 1.5	-17.6	81	85	127	6.7	6.9	8.6
Park	12,384	12,561	12,242	- 1.4	1.2	759	933	802	6.1	7.4	6.6
Platte	4,493	4,495	4,295	0.0	4.6	286	322	363	6.4	7.2	8.5
Sheridan	12,901	12,877	12,169	0.2	6.0	732	796	802	5.7	6.2	6.6
Sublette	2,426	2,392	2,596	1.4	- 6.5	194	215	258	8.0	9.0	9.9
Sweetwater	18,478	18,283	19,126	1.1	- 3.4	1,498	1,564	1,630	8.1	8.6	8.5
Teton	9,270	9,268	8,805	0.0	5.3	272	298	314	2.9	3.2	3.6
Uinta	9,013	9,039	9,379	- 0.3	- 3.9	861	973	875	9.6	10.8	9.3
Washakie	4,123	4,153	4,386	- 0.7	- 6.0	348	405	381	8.4	9.8	8.7
Weston	3,333	3,361	3,330	- 0.8	0.1	289	289	226	8.7	8.6	6.8
United States									5.2	5.6	5.9
United States Seasonally adjusted									5.0	5.1	5.6

*The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition The 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	MAR 1989[2]	FEB 1989[1]	MAR 1988	FEB 1989	MAR 1988
	Total	Total	Total	to MAR 1989	to MAR 1989
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	178.7	176.2	177.9	1.4%	0.5%
Manufacturing	9.1	8.9	8.3	2.3%	9.6%
Durable Goods	4.1	4.0	3.7	2.5%	10.8%
Nondurable Goods	5.0	4.9	4.6	2.0%	8.7%
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0%	0.0%
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	169.6	167.3	169.6	1.4%	0.0%
Mining	17.9	17.9	17.7	0.0%	1.1%
Contract Construction	9.0	8.1	8.1	11.1%	11.1%
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.5	13.5	13.2	0.0%	2.3%
Railroad Transportation	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0%	0.0%
Transportation except Railroads	5.8	5.8	5.5	0.0%	5.5%
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	5.8	5.8	5.8	0.0%	0.0%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	41.2	40.6	39.5	1.5%	4.3%
Wholesale Trade	6.9	6.8	6.8	1.5%	1.5%
Retail Trade	34.3	33.8	32.7	1.5%	4.9%
Food Stores	5.1	5.1	4.8	0.0%	6.3%
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.6	5.5	5.4	1.8%	3.7%
Eating & Drinking Places	12.7	12.4	12.2	2.4%	4.1%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.3	7.2	7.2	1.4%	1.4%
Services	32.1	31.8	31.0	0.9%	3.6%
Personal Services	1.9	1.8	1.8	5.6%	5.6%
Medical & Other Health Services	6.9	6.9	6.9	0.0%	0.0%
Government	48.6	48.2	52.9	0.8%	- 8.1%
Federal Government	7.9	7.9	7.1	0.0%	11.3%
State & Local Government	40.7	40.3	45.8	1.0%	-11.1%
State Government	14.2	14.0	13.5	1.4%	5.2%
Local Government	26.5	26.3	32.3	0.8%	-18.0%

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd) *(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	MAR 1989[2]	FEB 1989[3]	MAR 1988	FEB 1989	MAR 1988
	Total	Total	Total	to MAR 1989	to MAR 1989
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	26.9	26.9	26.5	0.0%	1.5%
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0%	7.7%
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0%	0.0%
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0%	-25.0%
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	25.5	25.5	25.2	0.0%	1.2%
Mining	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0%	0.0%
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0%	0.0%
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0%	0.0%
Contract Construction	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0%	0.0%
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0%	5.9%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.6	7.6	7.5	0.0%	1.3%
Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0%	0.0%
Retail Trade	5.5	5.5	5.4	0.0%	1.9%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.0%	- 7.1%
Services	5.7	5.7	5.6	0.0%	1.8%
Government	5.1	5.1	5.0	0.0%	2.0%
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.0%	16.7%
State & Local Government	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0%	0.0%
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.9	29.9	29.6	0.0%	1.0%
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0%	8.3%
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.6	28.6	28.4	0.0%	0.7%
Contract Construction	1.4	1.3	1.3	7.7%	7.7%
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.0	3.0	2.8	0.0%	7.1%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.8	6.8	6.8	0.0%	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0%	0.0%
Retail Trade	6.0	6.0	6.0	0.0%	0.0%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0%	5.3%
Services	5.4	5.5	5.5	- 1.8%	- 1.8%
Government	10.2	10.2	10.1	0.0%	1.0%
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0%	0.0%
State & Local Government	7.5	7.5	7.4	0.0%	1.4%

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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Dick Sadler, Executive Director
Bill Davis, Chief, Research and Analysis
Gordon Wolford, Statistical Analyst
Mike Paris, Statistical Analyst

Please send comments, questions or address changes to Wyoming Employment Security Commission, Research and Analysis Section, P.O. Box 2760, Casper, WY 82602, Ph. (307) 235-3643.

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